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THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

TO

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER

ON THE WORKING OF THE

PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES.

1890-91



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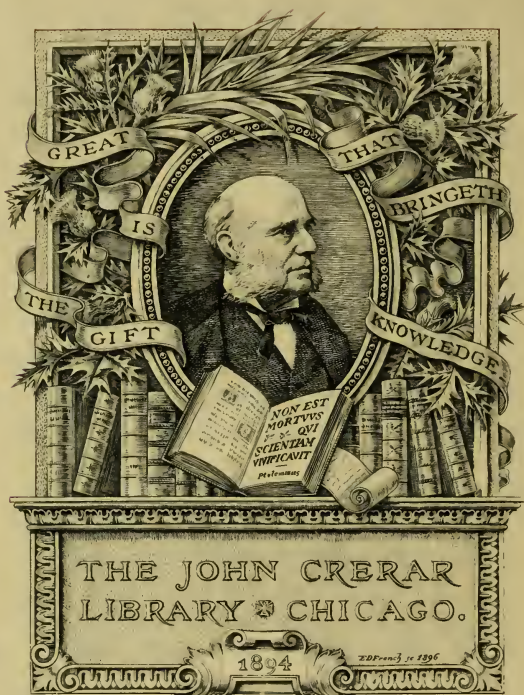


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Withdrawn from Greer Library

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Committee.

CHAIRMAN—Councillor JAMES W. SOUTHERN.

DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN—Councillor HARRY RAWSON.

The MAYOR.

Alderman CROSFIELD.

„ LEECH.

„ MILLING.

„ RUSSELL.

Councillor ABBOTT.

„ BATTY.

„ BAX.

„ BODDINGTON.

„ S. H. BROOKS.

Councillor FULLERTON.

„ HOY.

„ McCABE.

„ MORGAN.

„ NORRIS.

„ REYNOLDS.

„ ROTHWELL.

„ ROWLEY.

„ VAUDREY.

Officers.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN—CHARLES WILLIAM SUTTON.

DEPUTY-CHIEF LIBRARIAN—WILLIAM ROBERT CREDLAND.

SUPERINTENDENT OF BRANCHES—LAWRENCE DILLON.

SENIOR ASSISTANT, REFERENCE LIBRARY—ERNEST AXON.

LIBRARIANS OF THE BRANCH LIBRARIES.

DEANS_GATE—EMILY TATTON.

HULME—ISAAC Z. MAUDSLEY.

ANCOATS—EMILY CASSERLY.

ROCHDALE ROAD—BLANCHE TWITTY.

CHORLTON AND ARDWICK—ALFRED HARROP.

CHEETHAM—FRANK A. BRINDLEY.

NEWTON HEATH—ELIZABETH HART.

REPORT, 1890-91.

The Public Free Libraries Committee present the following Annual Report :—

The statistics appended to this Report, referring to the year ended 5th September, 1891, show that the number of visits made by readers and borrowers to the various Libraries and Reading Rooms of the City reached an aggregate of 4,327,038, against a total for the preceding twelve months of 4,195,109. The following are the details of which this total is composed :—

The number of volumes taken for home reading and obtained for perusal in the Reading Rooms has been 1,509,124. In the preceding year it was 1,564,808. The daily average of volumes used in all the Libraries was 4,263, against 4,432 in the year 1889-90.

Of the volumes issued to readers at the Libraries 284,829 were read in the Reference Library, and 521,492 in the Reading Rooms attached to the Branches. The figures last year were respectively 307,785 and 556,785. The diminution in the number is partially explained by the closing, for re-decoration, of the Reference Library and one of the Branches during one month.

The number of volumes lent for home reading was 702,803. Of these only 13 are missing.

The total number of visitors to the nine Newsrooms, as computed from periodical countings, has been 3,026,960, against 2,856,145 in the preceding year.

On Sundays 9,744 volumes have been issued at the Reference Library, the average being 195 each Sunday, against 214 in the previous year. 15,024 volumes have been used by adults at the Branches, and 114,524 have been issued in the Boys' Rooms. The number of adult readers of Magazines and Newspapers at the Branches on Sundays has been 145,000, and the total number of visits paid to the Libraries and Reading Rooms on Sundays 263,309, or an average of 5,063 each Sunday.

In the Boys' Rooms, which are open only in the evening, 408,136 volumes have been issued, being a decrease of 27,269.

There are now 206,118 volumes on the shelves of the Libraries. The number in the Reference Library is 95,399, in the six Branch Libraries 107,811, and in the three Reading Rooms 2,908. The additions made to the stock of books number 3,477 volumes. Those withdrawn from the Lending Libraries as worn out or otherwise unserviceable amount to 2,711, but they have been or will be replaced, for the most part, by new copies.

The volumes bound during the year for the Branch Libraries have been 7,026, and for the Reference Library 1,322. In addition to this, 1,190 volumes were re-bound at the Reference Library by the Committee's workmen, and 9,416 repaired, lettered, and numbered by them for the Reference and Branch Libraries.

The number of persons holding tickets entitling them to the right of borrowing is 39,326, and during the year they have made 670,701 applications for books, showing that each borrower has been supplied with books, on an average, 17 times in the twelve months.

New Catalogues for the Deansgate and Chorlton Branches have been printed, a new edition of the Cheetham Branch Catalogue is in the press, and others for the Rochdale Road and Ancoats Branches are in preparation.

The Reference Library has been thoroughly painted and decorated. Several improvements have been introduced, especially a range of open shelves in the large Reading Room for the accommodation of a collection of works of reference, to which the readers have now unrestricted access; and increased facilities have been afforded in the lower Reading Room for the consultation of directories and similar works.

The Newton Heath Branch Library, which was projected by the late Local Board, but was unfinished at the time of the incorporation of the District with the City, has been completed and furnished by the Committee, and was opened by the Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Mark) on the 28th September, 1891. The period during which it has been open does not fall within the scope of this Report, but it may be stated that the results of the working of the Library have so far been eminently satisfactory.

The accommodation consists of a general Reading Room (size, 39ft. 9in. by 26ft.), and a special Reading Room for Boys (size, 36ft. by 19ft. 9in.), both on the ground floor. The Lending Department is placed on the first floor, in the large room formerly used by the Local Board, and which measures 41ft. 6in. by 18ft. 6in.

By the generosity of residents of the Newton Heath District, from whom the sum of £238 19s. was received in subscriptions, the Committee have been enabled to make the Library more complete and extensive than would otherwise have been possible with the funds at their disposal. Besides the gifts of money, many valuable books have been received. The Newton Heath Library opened with 4,828 volumes.

The Committee have much gratification in recording that the Trustees of the Longsight Mechanics' Institution and the Rusholme Public Hall have transferred their valuable properties to the Corporation, and that those institutions will shortly be opened as Branch Libraries and Reading Rooms. The generous action of the Trustees in thus aiding the development of the Free Libraries of the City will, it is confidently anticipated, be as warmly appreciated by the public as it is by the Committee.

During the past year the Corporation have obtained Parliamentary power to increase the expenditure on the Free Libraries from one penny to twopence in the pound. This is a privilege which the Committee has long been desirous of possessing, as they have been much hampered in their operations by the previous limitation, finding it impossible, with the restriction to a penny rate, to provide for the requirements of certain populous parts of the City, or in any adequate degree to meet the needs of the recently-incorporated Townships.

On behalf of the Committee,

JAMES W. SOUTHERN,
Chairman.

Town Hall,
21st October, 1891.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Increase in the Number of Volumes in the Libraries since their foundation.

	Reference Library	Lending Department	Reading-rooms	TOTAL
1st Year, 1852-3	15744	7195	.....	22939
5th „ 1856-7	25858	10029	.....	35887
10th „ 1861-2	31604	28743	.....	60347
15th „ 1866-7	39264	44705	.....	83969
20th „ 1871-2	46614	72462	.....	119076
25th „ 1876-7	56480	80921	.....	137401
30th „ 1881-2	70320	90449	.....	160769
31st „ 1882-3	73308	94194	.. ...	167502
32nd „ 1883-4	75997	96493	.....	172490
33rd „ 1884-5	78551	97606	.....	176157
34th „ 1885-6	81930	99165	.....	181095
35th „ 1886-7	84064	100841	1114	186019
36th „ 1887-8	86654	102696	2617	191967
37th „ 1888-9	90573	104842	2532	197947
38th „ 1889-90.....	92942	106708	2991	202641
39th „ 1890-1	95399	107811	2908	206118

Annual Issues from each Library for each Year since the commencement.

YEAR	REFERENCE LIBRARY	LENDING LIBRARIES						READING-ROOMS.			Annual Total	Daily Average of the Total Issue
		Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton	Cheetham	Bradford	Harpurhey	Hyde Road		
1st 1852-3...	61080	77232	Commenced Nov. 23, 1857	Commenced Dec. 7, 1857	Commenced June 4, 1860	Commenced October 8, 1866	Commenced January 29, 1872	Commenced February 8th, 1887	Commenced February 9th, 1887	Commenced May 7th, 1888	138312	461
2nd 1853-4...	64578	77767									142345	488
3rd 1854-5...	66261	81321									147582	495
4th 1855-6...	70770	85783									156553	523
5th 1856-7...	82158	96117									178275	600
6th 1857-8...	96309	98351	50129	38058							282847	1127
7th 1858-9...	80083	75449	67231	47626							270389	914
8th 1859-60	95305	74423	64598	47358	14366						296050	1244
9th 1860-1...	112885	78464	77395	51532	59194						379470	1270
10th 1861-2...	127669	100776	91763	55269	70061						445538	1500
11th 1862-3...	124210	121868	95967	59181	75472						476698	1594
12th 1863-4...	86550	98267	88988	56091	68494						398390	1661
13th 1864-5...	85255	96144	95687	54535	76556						408177	1365
14th 1865-6...	83463	84187	94183	45508	75606						382947	1330
15th 1866-7...	112132	88675	155555	41936	88602	105315					592215	2008
16th 1867-8...	127053	95308	167349	56246	94445	133890					674291	2263
17th 1868-9...	132653	97951	165302	68444	96020	147368					707738	2375
18th 1869-70	121788	106416	127218	65534	114670	148155					729281	2447
19th 1870-1...	98297	125962	175776	72913	98725	180146					751819	2523
20th 1871-2...	82654	118094	172169	79319	103753	188147	41173				785309	2845
21st 1872-3...	95908	115657	161660	88112	130408	199970	63347				855062	2889
22nd 1873-4...	81594	108342	172312	86334	111492	189145	69954				819173	2805
23rd 1874-5...	67560	94834	167516	86918	99974	180390	68476				765668	2815
24th 1875-6...	61213	92579	166785	88665	95477	180494	66129				751342	2513
25th 1876-7...	37320	40972	176415	91136	97655	175193	63215				681906	2684
26th 1877-8...	63957	closed	195869	112103	97271	190736	75979				735915	2746
27th 1878-9...	173137	closed	211995	145277	117743	235137	101790				985079	3281
28th 1879-80	186448	closed	202354	136489	106149	238402	96626				966468	2777
29th 1880-1...	203194	closed	260673	125863	107511	173548	100548				971337	2908
30th 1881-2 ..	210195	38284	271052	143113	106196	190383	106630				1065853	3269
31st 1882-3...	252648	124377	253430	142745	104687	207782	105919				1191588	3338
32nd 1883-4...	278876	143147	279378	150260	106227	193741	168764				1320393	3700
33rd 1884-5...	283232	155501	293488	167037	106087	206610	169194				1381149	3847
34th 1885-6...	294444	184696	278263	176579	171470	222914	142374				1461740	4150
35th 1886-7...	278558	179033	277547	169684	187718	210224	141300	4519	13445		1462028	4107
36th 1887-8...	305765	184298	288678	182548	194782	227365	156742	15983	24981	25732	1606874	4464
37th 1888-9...	336058	199148	295218	164642	168192	205873	158047	17754	26846	77963	1649741	4700
38th 1889-90	307785	171567	267184	174742	149238	202913	153183	26507	26810	84879	1564808	4432
39th 1890-1...	284829	168381	271824	170034	136485	203607	151370	27115	29711	65768	1509124	4263

FREE REFERENCE LIBRARY, KING STREET.

ESTABLISHED AT CAMPFIELD 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1852; CAMPFIELD LIBRARY CLOSED
20TH MARCH, 1877; RE-OPENED IN KING STREET 11TH FEBRUARY, 1878.

Open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 to 9 p.m. During
the year the Library was open on 300 week-days and 50 Sundays.

Any person, by filling up a ticket provided for the purpose, may obtain
books to peruse in the Reading Room, from which books are not permitted to
be taken under any circumstances.

Number of Issues in the Reference Library during the last two Years.

	1890-1			1889-90		
	Week-days	Sundays	Totals	Week-days	Sundays	Totals
Theology and Philosophy	12626	465	13091	13100	563	13663
History, Travels, &c.....	32203	1406	33609	38624	1949	40573
Politics and Commerce (in- cluding Directories)	41856	1077	42933	43467	1051	44518
Science and Arts	74374	2906	77280	78103	3270	81373
Literature and Polygraphy } (including Newspaper Files) }	105728	3711	109439	113241	4107	117348
Specifications of Patents	8298	179	8477	10091	219	10310
Totals	275085	9744	284829	296626	11159	307785
Daily average	917	195	...	954	214	...

Number of Readers in the Reference Library during the last two Years.

	1890-1			1889-90		
	Week-days	Sundays	Totals	Week-days	Sundays	Totals
Theology and Philosophy	8581	346	8927	8986	386	9372
History, Travels, &c.....	21704	989	22693	26059	1248	27307
Politics and Commerce	37770	882	38652	39280	860	40140
Science and Arts	57366	2162	59528	61119	2373	63492
Literature and Polygraphy ...	85682	2662	88344	90288	2841	93129
Specifications of Patents	3025	72	3097	3011	70	3081
Totals	214128	7113	221241	228743	7778	236521
Daily average	714	142	...	735	149	...

Number of Volumes in the Reference Library.

	Vols. in Library last year	Added during the year	Total No. of Vols. now in Library
Theology and Philosophy	7497	91	7588
History, Travels, &c.....	23266	561	23827
Politics and Commerce	16152	660	16812
Science and Arts	15929	531	16460
Literature and Polygraphy	25252	517	25769
Specifications of Patents	4846	97	4943
Totals	92942	2457	95399

Additions to the Reference Library.

	1890-1	1889-90
Number of Volumes added by Purchase	1341	1213
" " " by Presentation	648	506
" " bound and added to stock :—		
Periodicals	292	411
Patents	97	97
Parliamentary Papers*	0	0
Pamphlets	79	143
Totals	2457	2370

* The whole of the Parliamentary Papers for these years have been received and are available for reference, but none have been *bound* into volumes.

Binding—Reference Library.

	1890-1	1889-90
Number of Volumes re-bound, &c., by binders on premises.....	1190	836
" " repaired, lettered, &c.	9416	10655
" " bound by outside binders.....	1322	1111

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The Lending Department consists of Seven Libraries. Books for home reading may be obtained on the production of a borrower's card, which is given to any person in exchange for a written engagement, signed according to the regulations, for the safe return of the books. Borrowers may obtain books at each Branch from 8-30 a.m. till 9-0 p.m. every Week-day except Saturday, when the issue ceases at 5-0 p.m.

A News-room is attached to each Lending Library, and is open free to the public for the use of the newspapers and periodicals, from 8-30 a.m. till 10-0 p.m., and on Sunday from 2-0 to 9-0 p.m. Books may be obtained for reading in the News-rooms by any person on signing a Reader's ticket. Books so obtained must be returned before leaving the room. Reading-rooms for Boys are open at all the Branches and at the Hyde Road and Bradford Reading-rooms from 6-0 to 9-0 every evening.

Three Reading-rooms, provided with newspapers, periodicals, and a selection of books for use on the premises, are also open during the same hours as the Branch Libraries.

Name, Locality, and Date of Establishment of each Branch Library and Reading-room.

Deansgate	Deansgate	2nd Sep., 1852
Hulme	Stretford Road	23rd Nov., 1857
Ancoats	Every Street	7th Dec., 1857
Rochdale Road.....	Livesey Street	4th June, 1860
Chorlton and Ardwick...	Rusholme Road	6th Oct., 1866
Cheetham.....	York Street, Cheetham ...	29th Jan., 1872
Bradford	Brook Street, Bradford...	8th Feb., 1887
Harpurhey	Queen's Park.....	9th Feb., 1887
Hyde Road	Hyde Road.....	7th May, 1888
Newton Heath.....	Oldham Road.....	28th Sep., 1891

Deansgate Library was opened in the present building on 5th April, 1882; the present Hulme Library was opened in June, 1866; the Ancoats Library in September, 1867; and the Cheetham Library in February, 1878.

The dates of opening of the Boys' Rooms are as follows:—Ancoats, 8th January, 1878; Chorlton November, 1878; Hulme, 6th September, 1880; Deansgate, 5th April, 1882; Cheetham, 19th December, 1883, Rochdale Road, 12th October, 1885; Hyde Road, 7th May, 1888; Bradford, 20th November, 1889.

Number of Volumes, as classified, in each Branch Library.

CLASS	Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton and Ardwick	Cheetham	Totals
Theology and Philosophy.....	1270	959	883	717	1041	1026	5896
History, Biography, Travels, &c.	6090	5246	4309	4192	5032	3973	28842
Politics and Commerce	492	422	281	383	482	476	2536
Science and Art	2791	2845	2102	2242	2373	2361	14714
Literature and Polygraphy ...	5951	4820	3647	2508	4463	3441	24830
Prose Fiction	5188	5639	5125	4656	5811	4371	30790
Embossed Books for the Blind	203	...	...	...	...	...	203
Totals, 5th Sep., 1891...	21985	19931	16347	14698	19202	15648	107811
Totals, 5th Sep., 1890...	21232	19877	16208	14608	19276	15508	106709

Volumes issued to Borrowers for Home Reading during the Year.

	Theology and Philosophy	History, Biogra- phy, Voyages, and Travels	Politics and Commerce	Science and Art	General Literature	Fiction	Books for the Blind	TOTALS	Daily Average
Deansgate	2107	9100	956	8557	9712	79614	172	110218	359
Hulme	1597	12926	528	10219	22399	129833	...	177502	578
Ancoats	922	7050	224	4955	11813	63532	...	88496	288
Rochdale Road	648	5811	546	4539	10201	61484	...	83229	271
Chorlton & Ardwick	1447	8791	591	6790	14363	111224	...	143206	466
Cheetham	1060	5805	545	3829	9874	79039	...	100152	326
Totals	7781	49483	3390	38889	78362	524726	172	702803	2288

*Volumes used on Week-days in the General Reading-rooms of each Branch
Library during the Year.*

	Theology and Philosophy	History, Biography, Travels, &c.	Politics and Commerce	Science and Art	General Literature	Fiction	TOTALS	Daily Average
Deansgate	182	1230	2978	1455	3285	6253	15383	50
Hulme.....	484	2414	1608	2387	3167	3276	13336	43
Ancoats	204	786	733	802	2446	1826	6797	22
Rochdale Road	103	553	1267	675	1937	1600	6135	20
Chorlton and Ardwick	291	1490	3839	1453	1751	2363	11187	36
Cheetham	162	418	5024	527	785	708	7624	25
Totals.....	1426	6891	15449	7299	13371	16026	60462	196

*Number of Volumes issued to Readers, and Number of Visitors to the General
News-rooms on Sundays.*

CLASS	Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton	Cheetham	TOTALS
	No. of Vols. Read	No. of Vols. Read	No. of Vols. Read	No. of Vols. Read	No. of Vols. Read	No. of Vols. Read	
Theology, &c	5	160	17	11	31	16	240
History, &c.	84	407	91	55	124	22	783
Politics, &c.	143	113	52	50	147	317	822
Science and Art	109	412	85	37	142	25	810
General Literature...	137	501	356	254	144	41	1433
Fiction	191	363	229	144	155	37	1119
Totals	669	1956	830	551	743	458	5207
Daily Average	13	38	16	11	14	9	101
No. of Visitors	31121	20769	12560	21088	19281	24459	129278
Daily Average	598	399	242	406	371	470	2486

NUMBER OF READERS,

i.e., the number of times each Branch Library and Reading Room has been used during the year, by persons obtaining books for home reading, and by readers in the News-room and Boys' Room (exclusive of the use made of Periodicals and Papers in the News-room).

	LIBRARY				READING ROOM				Boys' Room						
	Days Open	By Home Readers	Daily Average	Week-days			Sundays			Week-days			Sundays		
				Week-days Open	By Readers in the Reading-room	Daily Average	Sundays Open	By Readers in the Reading-room	Daily Average	Week-days Open	By Readers in the Boys' Room	Daily Average	Sundays Open	By Readers in the Boys' Room	Daily Average
Deansgate	307	106490	347	308	15138	49	52	627	12	298	28807	97	52	13304	256
Hulme	307	169519	552	308	12489	41	52	1829	35	298	58399	196	52	20631	397
Ancoats	307	84357	275	308	6576	21	52	813	16	298	57194	192	52	16717	321
Rochdale Road	307	79626	259	308	6035	20	52	544	10	298	32599	109	52	12971	269
Chorlton and Ardwick ...	307	135857	443	308	10185	33	52	677	13	298	35696	120	52	12775	246
Cheetham	307	94852	309	308	7304	24	52	442	8	298	29850	100	52	13286	255
Hyde Road .....	...	...	...	293	11674	40	49	1878	38	279	33529	120	49	18375	375
Bradford .....	...	...	...	310	2797	9	52	1315	25	302	17538	58	52	5465	105
Harpurhey .....	...	...	...	311	23065	74	52	6570	126	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals .....	...	670701	...	...	95263	...	...	14695	...	...	293612	...	...	114524	...

Number of times persons have used the News-rooms during two weeks, one in February, 1891, and one in August, 1891.

	Deansgate		Hulme		Ancoats		Rochdale Road		Chorlton		Cheetham	
	Feb.	Aug.	Feb.	Aug.	Feb.	Aug.	Feb.	Aug.	Feb.	Aug.	Feb.	Aug.
Monday ...	1981	2053	1479	1157	656	545	833	892	1183	1146	2222	1853
Tuesday ...	2174	2094	1337	1130	681	772	1055	853	1241	1258	2314	1962
Wednesday	2209	1981	1240	1178	670	713	1110	961	1084	1188	2051	1904
Thursday	1859	1993	1232	1124	660	764	961	1050	1167	1154	2210	1766
Friday.....	1866	1827	1310	1027	703	693	931	944	1274	1180	2681	1760
Saturday ...	1290	1160	1168	804	400	438	745	609	838	767	2413	2075
Sunday ...	642	474	491	366	245	207	511	326	449	292	620	445
Totals...	12021	11582	8287	6786	4015	4132	6146	5635	7266	6985	14811	11765
Daily Average }	1717	1655	1381	1131	574	590	878	805	1038	998	2116	1681
Total Estimated No. of Visitors }	600216		447136		208260		299396		362408		675688	

Borrowers' Cards.

	Issued during the Year	Cancelled	Transferred	Remaining in force
Deansgate	2586	2687	109	7499
Hulme	3150	3648	111	8243
Ancoats	2197	2050	42	5400
Rochdale Road	1960	2211	55	5414
Chorlton and Ardwick	2926	3158	74	7458
Cheetham	1833	2073	53	5312
Totals	14652	15827	444	39326

Volumes Bound, Added, Withdrawn, and Lost.

	Bound	Additions to the Library	Worn-out Books Withdrawn	Books Withdrawn as Useless	Books lost by Borrowers and paid for or replaced		Books lost and not yet recovered
					By Borrowers	By Guarantors	
Deansgate	893	527	166	...	30	3	1
Hulme.....	1143	766	693	...	12	3	4
Ancoats	1416	836	688	...	4	2	0
Rochdale Road	801	704	208	391	12	2	1
Chorlton and Ardwick ...	1694	814	268	610	8	1	1
Cheetham	1079	876	688	23	15	1	6
Totals	7026	4523	2711	1024	81	12	13

BRADFORD, HARPURHEY, AND HYDE ROAD READING ROOMS.

Extent of Library, Number of Volumes Used, and Number of Readers.

Class	BRADFORD						HARPURHEY						HYDE ROAD					
	No. of Vols. in Library, including Boys' Room	Books used		Readers		No. of Vols. in Library	Books used		Readers		No. of Vols. in the Library, including Boys' Room	Books used		Readers		No. of Vols. in the Library, including Boys' Room	Books used	
		Week-days	Sun-days	Week-days	Sun-days		Week-days	Sun-days	Week-days	Sun-days		Week-days	Sun-days	Week-days	Sun-days		Week-days	Sun-days
Theology & Philosophy	35	9	1	9	1	14	30	19	30	19	14	37	3	27	2	14	37	3
History, Travels, &c.	198	281	154	281	154	247	1045	336	1043	336	171	807	240	754	221	1117	11937	1927
Politics and Commerce	34	140	11	140	11	15	949	60	949	60	19	1565	86	1564	86	1117	11937	1927
Science and Art	86	54	23	54	23	58	464	98	401	93	52	218	57	183	43	1117	11937	1927
General Literature	130	350	207	350	207	192	7592	2407	7587	2407	320	4027	438	3908	425	1117	11937	1927
Fiction	477	1963	919	1963	919	305	13056	3655	13055	3655	541	5283	1103	5238	1101	1117	11937	1927
Totals	960	2797	1315	2797	1315	831	23136	6575	23065	6570	1117	11937	1927	11674	1878	1117	11937	1927
Days open	....	310	52	310	52	....	311	52	311	52	....	293	49	293	49	....	293	49
Daily Average	....	9	25	9	25	....	74	126	74	126	....	41	39	40	38	....	41	39

Number of times persons have used the Reading Rooms during two weeks, one in February, 1891, and one in August, 1891.

	BRADFORD		HARPURHEY		HYDE ROAD	
	Feb.	August	Feb.	August	Feb.	August
Monday	217	205	559	577	679	673
Tuesday	211	209	542	523	634	660
Wednesday	205	214	435	603	666	578
Thursday	193	263	557	475	695	599
Friday	216	253	533	468	650	539
Saturday	151	138	444	421	540	439
Sunday	115	90	322	248	261	196
Totals	1308	1372	3392	3315	4125	3684
Daily Average	187	196	485	474	589	528
Actual No. of Visitors on Sundays	5684		15615		11759	
Total estimated No. of Visitors	69142		173877		190837	

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

VOLUMES USED.		1890-91	1889-90
No. of Vols. used in the Reference Library		284829	307785
" " lent for home use		702803	700242
" " used in the Reading Rooms on Week-days		98332	105354
" " " " " Sundays...		15024	16022
" " " Boys' Rooms on Week-days		293612	315647
" " " " " Sundays...		114524	119758
Total No. of Vols. used		1509124	1564808
Daily average of Vols. used		4263	4432
READERS AND BORROWERS.			
No. of Readers at the Reference Library		221241	236521
No. of Borrowers (<i>i.e.</i> , the number of times they have used the Libraries)		670701	667038
No. of Readers (<i>i.e.</i> , users of books in the General Reading Rooms at the Branches) on Week-days...		95263	101880
No. of Readers on Sundays		14695	15628
" " in the Boys' Rooms on Week-days ...		293612	315647
" " " " Sundays		114524	119758
Total No. of Readers and Borrowers		1410036	1456472
READING ROOMS.			
No. of Vols. used in the three Reading Rooms.....		47687	59002
Estimated No. of Readers (<i>i.e.</i> , number of visits).....		433856	466804
<i>Aggregate use of the Libraries and Reading Rooms.</i>			
By Borrowers		670701	667038
Estimated number of Visitors to the six News Rooms		2593104	2389341
" " " to the three Reading Rooms		433856	466804
Number of Users of the Reference Library		221241	236521
" " " Boys' Rooms		408136	435405
Total number of Users		4327038	4195109
Daily average		12155	11884
BORROWERS' CARDS.			
No. of Borrowers' Cards issued		14652	13771
" " cancelled		15827	14314
" " transferred		444	492
" " now in force		39326	40935
BOOKS LOST.			
Vols. lost by Borrowers and paid for by them		81	71
" " and paid for by guarantors ...		12	22
" " and not yet recovered		13	13
LIBRARY STOCK.			
Vols. bound and repaired		7026	19262
Vols. withdrawn as worn-out		2711	3117
" " as duplicates or useless		1024	9
Additions to the Libraries (including replacements of worn-out books)		4523	5005
No. of Vols. in the Reference Library		95399	92942
" " Lending Libraries		107811	106708
" " Reading Rooms		2908	2991
Total No. of Vols. in all the Libraries		206118	202641

EXPENDITURE FROM MARCH, 1890, TO MARCH, 1891.

	Reference Library		Deansgate		Hulme		Chorlton		Ancoats		Rochdale Road		Cheetham		Bradford Reading Room		Harpurhey Reading Room		Hyde Road Reading Room		Totals	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries and Wages	1749	7 6	428	18 9	576	15 6	518	7 0	378	8 9	372	7 11	421	14 0	140	14 0	113	17 5	180	15 0	4881	5 10
Rent, Chief Rent, and Insurance	130	16 3	0	0 0	27	2 9	0	12 0	0	0 0	35	17 3	0	17 3	21	2 8	0	10 6	12	9 0	229	7 8
Books	797	4 2	141	17 9	168	6 5	159	9 7	139	3 6	135	3 2	146	2 9	2	18 8	3	16 0	3	4 8	1697	6 8
Bookbinding	279	6 2	62	16 5	69	18 0	100	14 4	92	12 7	67	15 5	89	4 3	3	17 11	3	3 0	7	11 3	777	0 2
Periodicals and Newspapers	171	3 11	129	2 9	140	2 5	138	7 0	112	2 0	119	5 11	110	11 8	50	11 3	51	5 8	72	16 8	1095	9 3
Printing and Stationery	115	12 9	17	9 2	18	5 9	23	12 3	12	14 9	10	7 5	11	19 9	4	12 5	2	4 7	3	18 7	220	17 5
Catalogues	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0	168	13 3	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0	0	0 0	168	13 3
Alterations, Repairs, & Furniture	221	15 6	128	18 6	199	19 3	112	12 0	33	18 9	128	7 3	148	13 7	19	8 8	15	5 6	4	1 10	1013	0 10
Coal, Gas, and Water	223	5 10	142	12 11	95	19 4	117	1 10	110	15 0	138	12 7	109	6 2	41	8 8	35	3 5	57	10 11	1071	16 8
Miscellaneous	68	9 4	12	14 8	10	16 9	11	9 10	8	11 4	10	19 11	9	13 1	2	3 3	2	17 9	4	18 10	142	14 9
Deduct Casual Receipts	3757	1 5	1064	10 11	1307	7 0	1350	19 1	888	6 8	1018	16 10	1048	2 6	286	17 6	228	3 10	347	6 9	11297	12 6
	19	8 4	11	10 4	13	10 11	6	2 6	11	4 0	5	16 6	4	12 9	19	9 2	6	1 0	1	7 9	99	3 3
Totals	3737	13 1	1053	0 7	1293	16 1	1344	16 7	877	2 8	1013	0 4	1043	9 9	267	8 4	222	2 10	345	19 0	11198	9 3

<i>Extraordinary Expenditure.</i>		
Interest on Loans	527	17 4
Liquidation of Debt	725	0 0
Deduct Receipts—Interest on Balance in Bank on Capital Account	1252	17 4
	12	5 11
	1240	11 5
	12439	0 8

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS TAKEN AT THE BRANCH LIBRARIES.

Where the serials are not taken at every Library, the initials of the Branches where they are supplied are given in brackets, *e.g.* (D.) Deansgate, (H.) Hulme, (A.) Ancoats, (R.) Rochdale Road, (C.) Chorlton, (Ch.) Cheetham.

Quarterly.

Manchester Quarterly

Monthly.

All the Year Round
Animal World (H. C.)
Argosy
Artist (C. H.)
Atlantic Monthly (D. H. C.)
Band of Hope Review
Belgravia
Blackwood's Magazine
Boys' Own Paper (D. A.)
British Workman
Cabinet Maker (D. C. A.)
Cassell's Family Magazine
Catholic Fireside (A. R. Ch. H. D.)
Century
Chambers's Journal
Contemporary Review
Cornhill Magazine
English Illustrated Magazine
Fortnightly Review
Furniture and Decoration (A. C. D. R. H.)
Gentleman's Magazine
Girls' Own Paper
Good Words
Hand and Heart (H.)
Hardwicke's Science Gossip
Harper's Monthly Magazine

Investors' Monthly Manual (C.)
Knowledge
Leisure Hour
London Society
Longman's Magazine
Macmillan's Magazine
Miller (D.)
Month (R.)
Musical Record (H. C.)
Musical Times
New Review
Nineteenth Century
Public Health (C. R. H.)
Quiver
Railway Guides—
 Bradshaw's
 Heywood's
Review of Reviews
Saint Nicholas (D. A.)
Scribner's Magazine (C. Ch.)
Shorthand Magazine
Strand Magazine
Sunday at Home
Sunday Magazine
Temple Bar

Weekly.

Academy (D. H. R. A. C.)
All the Year Round (H. R. C. Ch.)
Anti-Jacobin
Army and Navy Gazette
Athenæum
Banner and Times of Wales (C. Ch.)
Ben Brierley's Journal
Black and White
Boy's Own Paper
Broad Arrow (D. H. R. C. Ch.)
Builder
Building News (D. H. R. A. C.)

Cambrian News (H. Ch.)
Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald
 (H. R. C.)
Carpenter and Builder (D. H. R. C. Ch.)
Cassell's Saturday Journal
Catholic Times
Chambers's Journal
Chemical News (D. H. C.)
Christian World
Civil Service Gazette (H. C.)
Economist (H. C.)

Weekly—continued.

Engineer	Manchester Weekly Times
Engineering (D. H. A. C. Ch.)	Mechanical World (Ch.)
English Mechanic	Nature
Era (H.)	Notes and Queries (D. H. R. A. C.)
Family Herald	Pall Mall Budget
Field (D. H. C.)	Phonetic Journal
Fun	Practical Engineer (R.)
Gardeners' Chronicle (H. C.)	Preston Guardian
Gardening Illustrated (A. D. H. R.)	Punch
Genedl Gymraeg (Welsh Nation) (H.)	Queen
Gentlewoman	Railway News (A.)
Girls' Own Paper (A.)	Salford Chronicle (D. R. Ch.)
Graphic	Saturday Review
Guardian (London) (D. H. A. C.)	Schoolmaster
Gwalia (D.)	Scientific American
Illustrated London News	Shorthand Weekly News
Industries	Speaker
Inquirer	Spectator
Iron (H. R.)	Sunday at Home (A. R. Ch.)
Iron and Coal Trades Review (D.)	Tablet (D. R. A.)
Jewish Chronicle (Ch.)	Truth
Judy	Tuam Herald (R. D.)
Labour News	Volunteer Record
Lancet (C. H.)	Volunteer Service Gazette
Land and Water	Weekly Register and Catholic Standard (R.)
Leeds Mercury (R. A.)	World
Manchester City News	Wrexham Advertiser (H.)
Manchester Weekly Courier (D. H. R. C.)	

Semi-Weekly.

Warrington Guardian (D. H. R. C. Ch.)

Daily.

Aberdeen Free Press	Manchester Courier
Belfast News Letter	Manchester Evening Mail
Birmingham Daily Gazette (D.)	Manchester Evening News
Birmingham Daily Post	Manchester Examiner and Times
Bradford Observer	Manchester Guardian
Cork Examiner (H. A. R. C.)	Morning Post
Daily Graphic	National Press
Daily News	Newcastle Chronicle (D. R.)
Daily Telegraph	Pall Mall Gazette
Dublin Freeman's Journal	St. James's Gazette (D. H. A. C. R.)
Glasgow Herald	Scotsman
Globe (H. A. C.)	Scottish Leader
Irish Times	Sheffield Telegraph
Leeds Mercury	South Wales Daily News (C.)
Liverpool Courier	Standard
Liverpool Daily Post (D. R.)	Times
Liverpool Mercury	

PERIODICALS TAKEN FOR THE BOYS' EVENING READING ROOMS.

Monthly.

Band of Hope Review	Friendly Greetings
Boys' Own Paper	Little Folks
British Workman	Onward
Children's Friend	St. Nicholas
Children's Own	Sunshine
Family Friend	Young Days

Weekly.

Boys' Own Paper	Illustrated London News
Chatterbox	Sunday
Graphic	

Daily.

Manchester Evening News (H. R. Ch. A. D.)	Manchester Evening Mail (H. R. Ch. A. D.)
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PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS TAKEN FOR THE BRADFORD, HARPURHEY, AND HYDE ROAD READING ROOMS.

Monthly and Quarterly.

Band of Hope Review (H.R.)	Macmillan's Magazine
Boys' Own Paper	Manchester Quarterly (H. Hyde R.)
British Workman (H.R.)	Musical Times
Cassell's Magazine	Nineteenth Century (H. Hyde R.)
Century	Quiver (H.R.)
Chambers's Journal (H.R.)	Railway Guides—
Cornhill Magazine	Bradshaw's
English Illustrated Magazine	Heywood's
Good Words	Review of Reviews
Harper's Magazine (H.R.)	Strand Magazine
Knowledge	Sunday at Home
Leisure Hour	Temple Bar

Weekly.

All the Year Round	Girls' Own Paper
Anti Jacobin	Gorton, Openshaw, and Bradford
Athenæum	Reporter (B.H.R.)
Ben Brierley's Journal	Graphic
Black and White	Illustrated London News
Blackley and Harpurhey Guardian	Labour News
Bradford Reporter	Manchester City News
Broad Arrow (H.R.)	Manchester Weekly Times
Builder	Nature
Carpenter and Builder	Pall Mall Budget
Cassell's Saturday Journal	Phonetic Journal (H.R.)
Catholic Times	Punch
Chambers's Journal	Queen
Chemical News (B.)	Railway Review (H. Hyde R.)
Engineer	Saturday Review
Engineering	Spectator
English Mechanic	Volunteer Service Gazette
Gardeners' Chronicle	World (H.R.)
Gentlewoman	

Daily.

Birmingham Daily Post (H.R.)
Daily Graphic (H.R.)
Daily News
Freeman's Journal
Irish Times (H.R.)
Leeds Mercury (H.R.)
Liverpool Mercury (H.R.)
Manchester Courier
Manchester Evening Mail
Manchester Evening News

Manchester Examiner
Manchester Guardian
National Press
Pall Mall Gazette
Scotsman (H.R.)
Standard
St. James's Gazette (H.R.)
Telegraph (H.R.)
Times

LIST OF DONATIONS.

In Alphabetical Order of the Donors' Names.

- ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS' SOCIETY:—**
List of Members, Bye-Laws, &c. 1891.
- AINSWORTH, G. M.,** Executors of the late (per Mr. D. A. Little):—
Collection of Music. 39 vols. and 37 loose pieces.
Doddridge's Works. 10 vols.
Heylyn's Cosmography. 1727.
- ALLEY, J. J. (the Author):—**
Assam. 1891 (Pamphlet).
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THE TEACHING OF SPEECH TO THE DEAF:—**
Act of Incorporation and Constitution. 1890-91.
Greenberger (D.) Word Method. 1891.
- AMERICAN INSTRUCTORS OF THE DEAF AND DUMB:—**
Proceedings of the 12th Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf and Dumb. 1890.
- ANJEL, Dr. MANUEL URIBE (the Author):—**
Geographia general y compendio historico del Estado de Antioquia en Colombia. 1885.
- ANONYMOUS:—**
Bleburn Dickshonary. 1891.
Boutell (L. H.) Alexander Hamilton, the constructive Statesman. 1890.
Cannan (E.) Elementary Political Economy. 1888.
Hodges (S. H.) General Booth. 1890.
Insurance Directory, Reference and Year Book. 1891.
The New Papacy: Behind the Scenes in the Salvation Army. 1889.
Persecution of the Jews in Russia. 1890.
Rolin-Jaequemyns (G. R.) Armenia, the Armenians, and the Treaties. 1891.
Royal Kalendar. 1824.
Sinclair (A. H.) Municipal Monopolies. 1891.
Two Kinds of Truth, by T. E. S. T. 1890.
Un nuovo Sistema di Legatura meccanica per Cataloghi Notizia di Giulia Sacconi. 1891.
- ANSON, Ven. Archdeacon:—**
Official Year-Book of the Church of England. 1891.
- ARGENTINE REPUBLIC. BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL, BUENOS AIRES:—**
Agriculture et l'Elevage dans la République Argentine. 1889.
Catalogo oficial de las Muestras de Minerales exhibidas en la Seccion Argentina anexa a la Exposicion de Paris 1889.
Catalogue special officiel de l'Exposition de la République Argentine. 1889.
Censo de Bienes Nacionales. 1890.
Memoria general y especial sobre las Minas, Metalurgia, Leyes de Minas, &c. Per H. D. Hoskold. 1889.
Republica Argentina en la Exposicion de Paris de 1889. 2 vols. 1890.
- ASSURE JOURNAL CO.:—**
Assure. Edited by A. Arthur Reade. Vols. 1 and 2. 1889-90.
Reade (A. A.) Insurance made Easy. 1890.
- ASTRONOMER ROYAL:—**
Greenwich Observations. 1888-90.
- ATKINSON, Canon J. A. (the Author):—**
Hymn Book for St. John's, Longsight.
Three Sermons. 1887-9.
- AXON, ERNEST:—**
Axon (E.) Bayley Family of Manchester and Hope. 1890.
Axon (E.) Bibliography of Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquities, 1889. 1890.
Bayley (H. V.) Sermon preached at Chester. 1803.
- AXON, W. E. A.:—**
Hadfield (W.) Papers on Scientific Subjects. 1820.
Letters by several Eminent Persons deceased. By John Hughes, &c. 1772. 3 vols.
Stenotachygraphie. 1891.
68 Pamphlets, &c.
- BAILEY, CHARLES:—**
Kokkou (D. I.) Poieseis. 1889.
- BAILEY, JAS. B.:—**
Atmore (C.) Serious Advice. 1817.
- BAILEY, Alderman W. H. (the Author):—**
Outside the Class-Room: Thoughts for Young Engineers. 1891.
- BANNERMAN, HENRY & SONS, Limited:—**
Textile Manufactures. 1891.
- BERLIN, MUNICIPALITY OF:—**
Verwaltungs Bericht des Magistrats zu Berlin. 1889-90.

- BIRLEY, Rev. Canon:—**
Official Year Book of the Church of England. 1891.
- BISPHAM, WILLIAM (the Compiler):—**
Memoranda concerning the Family Bispham. 1890.
- BLAKE, W. F.:—**
Beesly (E. S.) Mind your own Business. 1890. 5 copies.
Comte (A.) General View of Positivism. Trans. by Bridges. 1880.
International Policy: Essays on the Foreign Relations of England. 1884.
- BODDINGTON, Councillor HENRY:—**
Horne (H. P.) Diversi Colores. 1891. Wicliff Society Publications. 2 vols.
- BOMBAY, GOVERNMENT OF:—**
Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of the Presidency of Bombay for 1889-90.
Report on external Land Trade of the Province of Sind for 1889-90.
- BRASSEY, Lord:—**
Brassey (Lady) Voyage in the Sunbeam. 1886. 2 copies.
- BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY:—**
86th and 87th Reports of the Society.
- BRITISH MUSEUM, TRUSTEES OF:—**
Catalogue of Printed Books. 21 parts.
Aristotle on the Constitution of Athens. Facsimile of Papyrus. 1891.
Aristotle on the Constitution of Athens. Edited by F. G. Kenyon. 1891.
- BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY):—**
Foord (A. H.) Catalogue of the Fossil Cephalopoda. Pt. 2. 1891.
Woodward (A. S.) Catalogue of Fossil Fishes. Part 2. 1891.
- BROCKBANK, WILLIAM (the Author):—**
Five Pamphlets on the Levenshulme Limestones. 1891.
- BROOKS, Councillor S. H.:—**
No. 7 Company, 4th Volunteer Batt. Manchester Regiment. Rules, &c.
- BROTHERTON MEMORIAL FUND:—**
Beaumont's Colour in Woven Design. Clarendon's History of the Rebellion. Ed. by Macray. 6 vols.
Clerke's System of the Stars.
Guillemard's Voyage of the Marchesa.
Hamilton's Riverside Naturalist.
Kirby and Schubert's Natural History of the Animal Kingdom.
Langmead's English Constitutional History.
Library of American Literature. 11 vols.
Mivart's Natural History of Dogs.
Murray's History of Greek Sculpture. 2 vols.
Tavernier's Travels in India. 2 vols.
- BROWNE, WALTER T. (the Author):—**
The Simplex Shorthand. 1891.
- BRUSHFIELD, T. N., M.D. (the Author):—**
Description of a perforated Stone Implement found at Willycombe Raleigh. 1890.
Notes on the Parish of East Budleigh. 1890.
- BURBERY, J. STONE:—**
Gilman (N. P.) Profit Sharing. 1889.
- BURTON, DAVID, THE FAMILY OF:—**
Five Pounds for Books for the Newton Heath Library.
- BURTON, JOHN:—**
Robertson (W.) Life and Times of John Bright. 2 vols.
- CAMPBELL, F. B. F. (the Author):—**
Introduction to the Theory of a State-Paper Catalogue. 1891.
- CANADA, GOVERNMENT OF:—**
Canada Statistical Year Book for 1889. Report on the Mineral Resources of Ontario. 1890. 2 copies.
Visit of the Tenant Farmer Delegates to Canada in 1890.
- CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, GOVERNMENT OF:—**
Census of the Cape of Good Hope. 1891.
Statistical Register. 1890.
Report of Liquor Laws Commission. 1889-90.
Civil Service List. 1891.
Acts of Parliament. 1890.
Votes and Proceedings of Parliament, and Appendixes. 4 vols.
- CARNEGIE, ANDREW:—**
Stedman and Hutchinson's Library of American Literature. 11 vols. 1891.
- CARR, THOMAS:—**
Illustrated Times. 9 vols.
- CASARTELLI, Rev. L. C. (the Author):—**
Some Marriage and Funeral Customs of Ancient Persia. 1890.
- CHADWICK, Mrs. DAVID:—**
Richardson (B. W.) Thomas Sopwith, F.R.S. 1891.
- CHALMERS, PATRICK (the Author):—**
How James Chalmers saved the Penny Postage Scheme. 1890.
Robert Wallace, M.P., and James Chalmers, the Scottish Postal Reformers. 1890.
- CHAMBERS, G. A.:—**
Three Pounds for Books for the Newton Heath Library.
- CHEETHAM, S. W.:—**
Smith's Manchester and Salford Almanac. 1848-77.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE:—

Board of Trade, Chicago. 33rd Report. 1890.

CIVIL ENGINEERS, INSTITUTION OF:—

Minutes of Proceedings. Vols. 102-5. 1889-90.

Brief Subject Index. Vols. 59-102.

CLIVE, W. B. & Co.:—

London University Calendar. 1891-2.
Tutorial Series. 55 vols. and 19 pamphlets.

CLARKSON, Miss LOUISE S.:—

Clarkson (T. T.) Revised System of Shorthand. 1889. MS.

COBDEN CLUB:—

Annual Report. 1891. 12 copies.
Playfair (Sir L.) Tariffs of the United States in relation to Free Trade. 1890. 24 copies.

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APPENDIX.

Opening of the Newton Heath Branch Free Library.

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THE Newton Heath Free Library owes its origin to a movement began in April, 1886, when a meeting was held in the Primitive Methodist School, Dean Lane, for the purpose of considering the best means of aiding science-teaching in the township. A Committee was then formed to "consider and formulate a scheme for carrying out a proposed Literary and Scientific Institute," and eventually a requisition was presented to the Local Board in favour of the adoption of the Libraries Acts. At the Town's meeting, which was held on 13th December, 1886, a resolution was passed adopting the Acts, and upon a poll being demanded the ratepayers confirmed the decision of the meeting. The poll was taken in January, 1887, the number of votes being as follows:—In favour of the Libraries Acts, 1,544; against, 1,185; majority, 359.

The Local Board afterwards resolved to erect a group of Township Buildings, to include Public Baths and a Public Assembly Hall, in addition to a Free Library and a School of Science and Art.

Designs for these buildings having been submitted, in open competition, by several architects, the Board ultimately selected those of Mr. Lawrence Booth (Messrs. Booth and Chadwick, of Manchester); and Messrs. William Southern and Sons, of Salford, were appointed as builders.

At the time of the incorporation of Newton Heath with Manchester (on 1st November, 1890), the buildings were unfinished, and it devolved upon the Public Free Libraries Committee of the City to complete the wing set apart for the Library, to furnish the rooms, and provide the books.

In January, 1891, the representatives of Newton Heath and Miles Platting Wards invited subscriptions from residents of the district, with the object of making the library more complete and extensive than would otherwise have been possible with the funds at the disposal of the Free Libraries Committee. In response to this appeal it is gratifying to record that the following contributions were received:—

	£
Mr. William Vickers	100
Messrs. W. Holland and Sons.....	50
Mr. John Marsden	10
Councillor Garlick	10
In Memory of the late Mr. David Burton.....	5
Mr. G. A. Chambers.....	3

The Trustees of the late Mechanics' Institute, Newton Heath (Messrs. Alderman George Evans, W. T. Evans, James Evans, S. L. Chadwick, and J. W. Williamson), gave the sum of £46 10s. 2d.; and Councillor Rothwell, as treasurer of the Newton Heath Jubilee Fund, handed over £14 9s. as the residue of that fund. Councillors Morgan and Tetlow presented a handsomely-bound set of the "Encyclopædia Britannica;" and some admirably selected books were given by Mr. E. M. Dixon, Mr. John Burton, and Councillor Trevor.

A Tablet commemorative of these benefactions, as well as of the opening of the Library by the Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Mark), on the 28th September, 1891, is placed in the Library. Another Tablet, recording the names of the members of the Local Board under whose auspices the buildings were erected, is fixed on the wall near the entrance to the Reading Room.

The Library opened with a collection of 4,828 volumes, and pains were taken to make it fairly representative of the best modern popular literature. The volumes in the Lending Department were arranged in classes as follows:—

A—Theology and Philosophy	279
B—History, Biography, and Travels	1,073
C—Politics and Commerce	155
D—Science and Art	647
E—Miscellaneous Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays, &c.) ..	625
F—Prose Fiction	1,638
Total.....	<u>4,417</u>

In addition, there were 299 volumes set apart for boys, in a reading room devoted especially to their use; and in the general reading room there is a bookcase containing 112 volumes of Encyclopædias, Dictionaries, and other books of reference. This room, which is furnished with an ample supply of the most popular magazines and newspapers of the day, is also provided with celestial and terrestrial Globes.

The inauguration of the Newton Heath Free Library was an especially noteworthy event, as it was the first of a series of libraries to be opened in the districts added to the City by the Incorporation Act of 1890, and as it marked the beginning of what will doubtless be a great development of the Free Libraries of Manchester, and a much wider diffusion of the educational and recreative benefits of those institutions.

The opening of the Library took place on the evening of Monday, 28th September, 1891.

Prior to the public meeting there was a gathering in one of the rooms in the library building, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Manchester, many members of the City Council, and many of the influential inhabitants of the district.

Councillor J. W. Southern, Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, presented the Mayor, on behalf of the Committee, with a gold key, which on one side bore the arms of the City, and on the other the inscription, "Presented to Alderman John Mark, Mayor of Manchester, by the Free Libraries Committee on the opening of the Newton Heath Branch Free Library, 28th September, 1891." The Mayor accepted the key, but said that before making any remarks about it he must give it a trial. The Mayor, accompanied by the guests, then proceeded to the Library door, which he unlocked. The public were admitted, and an inspection of the various rooms was made. Having filled up the usual form guaranteeing the return of any book which he might borrow from the Library, the Mayor was supplied with Smiles' "Self Help." After this an adjournment was made to the assembly hall, in which a large and appreciative audience of between 600 and 700 persons had assembled. Councillor Southern presided, and there were also on the platform the Mayor and Mrs. Mark, Mr. H. Rawson, Alderman B. T. Leech (Mayor elect), Alderman W. H. Holland, Alderman G. Evans, Mr. J. B. Fullerton, Mr. G. Milner, Mr. J. Hoy, Mr. W. T. Bax, Mr. J. Norris, Mr. W. T. Rothwell, Mr. C. Rowley, Mr. W. Trevor, Mr. D. McCabe, Mr. T. C. Abbott, Mr. J. H. Reynolds (Secretary of the Technical School), the Rev. E. F. Letts, Mr. J. Ward, Mr. S. L. Chadwick, Mr. G. A. Chambers, Mr. J. Coleman, the Rev. B. Dutton, Mr. W. T. Evans, Mr. J. Garlick, Mr. Thomas Milnes, Mr. J. Neild, Mr. A. Nicholson, Mr. H. Tetlow, Mr. John Williamson, Mr. J. W. Williamson, Mr. J. P. Wilkinson, Mr. C. W. Sutton (Chief Librarian), Mr. W. R. Credland (Sub-Librarian), and Mr. J. Blomeley.

Apologies for absence had been received from the following gentlemen:—Mr. William Vickers, who was exceedingly sorry that absence from Manchester prevented his attendance on the interesting occasion; Mr. Samuel Holland, Mr. J. M. Elliott, Mr. E. M. Dixon,

Sir J. J. Harwood, Alderman Heywood, Alderman Hopkinson, Alderman Lloyd Higginbottom, Alderman S. Chesters Thompson, Alderman Joseph Thompson, Councillor Morgan (who wrote, "I cannot tell you how much I regret being unable to be present. I have a long standing engagement for that evening, which cannot possibly be broken. I have been looking forward for some considerable time with great pleasure to the opening of our new public buildings in this locality, and I feel sure that they will be thoroughly appreciated by all in the neighbourhood, and I have no doubt whatever but that the Library and the Science and Art Classes will be patronised to such an extent as to justify the Committee in the expense they have gone to in fitting up these departments"), Councillor Holt, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Rushworth, Mr. James Evans, Rev. E. Jones, Mr. C. Walls, Mr. W. H. Talbot (Town Clerk), and Mr. John Allison (City Surveyor).

The Chairman said they were met for the purpose of declaring open and dedicating to the public use the fine room in which they were then assembled, and also the Free Library, which had just been opened by the Mayor, and from which he had just received as a borrower, that very admirable book, "Self Help," by Mr. Smiles. He supposed it would be like carrying coals to Newcastle for him to describe to the people of Newton Heath the building in which he then stood, inasmuch as they had seen it growing up before their eyes for some time past, and were acquainted with it as being a very prominent and a very ornamental addition to the architecture of the district. The Baths, which form a portion of the pile, had already been opened, and he believed were now in successful working. That room would be an admirable provision for the future. He only wished they had such rooms in all the districts of Manchester. This was one of the most important needs in some parts of the City, so that the inhabitants could meet either to discuss public affairs, or to listen to lectures and instructive addresses. Besides the public room, the baths, and the library, they had established a boys room, which they regarded as an exceedingly important part of their free library system. In all their large libraries they had got a cheerful, well-lighted, pleasing, attractive room for the boys, provided with books specially adapted and attractive to youth, and it was an exceedingly pleasant thing. It was one of the enjoyments of his life to go round to these boys and see some of these little fellows, many of them coming from homes where there might be no great degree of pleasure or comfort, with an interesting book before them, and, among the sordid surroundings of their own lives, deriving pleasure from another though to them ideal imaginative world. They were thankful to have the presence of the Mayor upon that occasion. Manchester had never wanted a succession of able and public-spirited men to fill the office of chief magistrate of the City, and he claimed that they had in the chief magistrate who was present among them that evening a man by no means unworthy of the best traditions of the office which he held. He was sure that those of them who had been brought into association with the Mayor in reference to Corporation affairs had found that the more they knew him the more highly were they bound to esteem and honour him. He was sorry to regret the absence of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, the popular dramatist, who had promised to give an address upon a literary subject, but unfortunately he could not be present. He claimed for Manchester that only one city—that of Boston, in the United States—exceeded Manchester in the number of books distributed among the people by the free library system. He dared say it would be news to many of them to know that during last year 1,564,000 volumes were issued from the Central Library of Manchester and the various branches. He claimed that that fact represented an enormous amount of good. They had recently increased the City by the amalgamation of a number of townships, of which Newton Heath was one. In the course of the negotiations which led to this amalgamation certain promises were held out to these districts that some of those municipal conveniences, of which free libraries were one, should be supplied to every district. They did not need to make that promise to Newton Heath, for the public-spirited men of that township had already decided that for themselves. Those buildings did not owe their origin to the Corporation, but to their predecessors in the local government of the district—the Newton Heath Local Board. This was only what they might have expected from what they knew of the

district. The Newton Heath Library was the first of the series of branch libraries which were bound to be established in the various districts in consequence of the amalgamation which he had referred to. The Committee would open two others this winter, one at Longsight, and the other at Rusholme; and plans were now in the process of development through which they hoped there would be a still further and considerable extension of their library system. He hoped they would maintain the position they had hitherto held in relation to other free libraries, and to the distribution among the masses of the people of wholesome and healthy literature.

The Mayor, who met with a hearty reception, said he regarded the completion of the buildings with very great pleasure indeed. The Committee had paid him a very high compliment in asking him to perform the opening ceremony; and if there were any regret at all, it might be that their politeness to him had deprived them of a very learned address from another prominent person. He could promise them no such address. He felt on occasions of that kind at a very great disadvantage when attempting to address an audience. However, he had always endeavoured to do his best, and he was sure that they would accept his remarks in the sincerity of purpose in which he desired to address them. It was not necessary for anyone occupying the position he did that evening to make any defence for, or enter into an explanation about, the establishment of free libraries. That was settled by the citizens of Manchester forty years ago, when they were the very first municipality, and he said it with some pride, to sanction a rate being levied for library purposes. Therefore they might very truly say that free libraries in Manchester had long since passed their elementary stage. It might be that some would say that they had been provided at a very considerable expense. Well, for his own part he did not think it was a bad investment. They had been limited by Act of Parliament to a library rate of one penny in the pound, which, in this Greater Manchester, would yield something like £10,000 per annum. Lately, however, they had gone to Parliament, and had obtained power to extend the rate, if they could prudently expend it, to twopence in the pound. They might call that a very considerable annual charge upon the rates, but he held that even if they went to the full extent it would still be a good investment. If, by the distribution of this wholesome literature, by improving the education of the people, the result should be to reduce the poor rate, the gaol rate, and the police rate, it would be an admirable investment. Therefore they admired the wisdom of those who went before them and provided institutions for the people such as libraries, museums, art galleries, parks, and baths, the last not entirely free, but yet nearly so. It was only the other day that he had occasion to speak to the Teachers' Guild of the United Kingdom upon the development of educational institutions within this City during the last 30 years. He was quite surprised, on looking into the subject, to discover the number of colleges and schools of various kinds now in full work in Manchester. It was quite remarkable how much attention was now being paid to continuous education by evening classes of every kind. He might have instanced the valuable work done by the Free Libraries Committee. Not only did they carry on the work of education during school years, but they afforded valuable aids to study beyond those years. Many instances were known of men who owed to the knowledge acquired in the libraries much of their success in life, to say nothing of the great and high delight that reading and study afforded. The importance of none of these things could be overestimated. He was not going to trouble them with many figures, but it was interesting to know the enormous increase in the scope of the work of the free libraries of Manchester, as instanced by the following numbers:—

Number of volumes used in Reference Library last year	307,785
Number of volumes lent for home use.....	700,242
Number of volumes used in the reading room on Week-days	105,354
Number of volumes used in the reading room on Sundays	16,022
Number of volumes used by boys on Week-days	315,647
Number of volumes used by boys on Sundays	119,758
Aggregate number of borrowers	667,038

Number of visitors to the news room	466,804
Number of users of the Reference Library.....	236,521
Number of users of boys rooms.....	435,405
Total number of users	4,195,109

It redounded to the credit of the borrowers that only 106 of the books lent out for home use were missing, and that out of this number the borrowers paid for 71 of them, guarantors paid for 22 more, leaving only thirteen that had not been replaced. The total number of volumes in the Reference Library was 92,942, in the Lending Libraries 106,708, in the Reading Rooms 2,991, giving a grand total of volumes in the libraries of 202,641. What did all this mass of literature, placed at the service of the people, mean? It meant that the representatives of the people in the City Council and others who took an interest in education were determined to do their duty in respect to educational matters to those whom they represented by placing in the power of the public the means of obtaining, on the very easiest terms, the best literature which the world has produced. Their representatives had no personal end of their own to serve, and only hoped that the people would avail themselves to the full of their splendid opportunities. It had been said that they could take a horse to the water, but could not make him drink; and so they might bring books to Newton Heath, but they could not make the people use them. It rested entirely with themselves, and having had some experience of improving his own education by means of borrowing useful books, he could commend that course to all young people present. Of course they wanted also healthy, pleasant recreation, but he appealed to them to devote some portion of their time to self-improvement. He appealed to the fathers and mothers present to take an interest in their children's studies and reading. The Chairman had referred to the growth of those buildings, and it had been a great pleasure and satisfaction to the members of the City Council to carry forward to a successful completion these things which Newton Heath felt that it required before it became incorporated with the City. It showed what Newton Heath thought of itself and its own resources before ever it was amalgamated with Manchester.

The Chairman said reference had been made to certain public-spirited residents, who had given generously in order that the library and its equipments might be more perfect at the outset than the Committee could make it, and he would call upon a member of the Free Libraries Committee to propose a resolution.

Councillor H. Rawson said no duty more acceptable could possibly have been assigned to him than that of recognising in that magnificent assembly the great and handsome services rendered by some of their neighbours. He moved, "That the thanks of this meeting are pre-sented to the kind and liberal donors of books and other matters for the use of the neighbourhood of Newton Heath and Miles Platting." The donors were well known to them. Many of them had served the public in various important capacities, and he took that opportunity, as a member of the City Council, to recognise the enthusiasm, the public spirit, and the administrative power of the men they had sent to the City Council to represent them. The facts to which he desired to call their attention were as follows:—In January, 1891, the representatives of Newton Heath and Miles Platting Wards invited subscriptions from residents of the district, with the object of making the library more complete and extensive than would otherwise have been possible with the funds at the disposal of the Committee. In response to this appeal it was gratifying to record that the following contributions were received:—Mr. William Vickers, £100; Messrs. W. Holland and Sons, £50; Mr. John Marsden, £10; Councillor Garlick, £10; in memory of the late Mr. David Burton, £5; Mr. J. A. Chambers, £3; the trustees of the late Mechanics' Institute, Newton Heath (Messrs. Alderman George Evans, W. T. Evans, James Evans, S. L. Chadwick, and J. W. Williamson), gave the sum of £46 10s. 2d.; and Councillor Rothwell, as treasurer of the Newton Heath Jubilee Fund, handed over £14 9s. as the residue of that fund; Councillors Morgan and Tetlow presented a handsomely bound set of the "Encyclopædia Britannica;" and some admirably selected books were given by Mr. E. M. Dixon,

Mr. John Burton, and Councillor Trevor. Whatever other satisfaction these gentlemen might have, they knew they had helped in the inauguration of a great work of enlightenment in this district, and done something towards improving the intellectual, moral, and social level, and the individual recreation of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood through many generations to come.

Mr. George Milner, in seconding the motion, said two classes of persons were visibly rising in general estimation and importance—the librarian and the elementary schoolmaster. In his opinion both these classes should rank as professions, and their members should be thoroughly educated and certificated in relation to their special work. The library ought to bear an important part in the systematic continuation of education. There was no better continuation school than the library. He hoped everything would be done to make the Newton Heath Branch Library an educational institution—not merely a place where people might go to borrow a book casually, as it were by accident, without a purpose and without direction, but a place where they might be guided by those who were competent to give them assistance. He wished to make a suggestion which he had made elsewhere on similar occasions. He thought the library would not fulfil its proper purpose until there were given in connection with it systematic lectures, not on books in general, but upon the books actually in the library—lectures which should tell the people what they ought to read and how to read it. Then again, what librarians called “hand-lists” should be prepared, so that a student who did not know his way among books might, so to speak, have a hand stretched out to him and be shown how to make the library of real use to his own education. He was satisfied that whatever the elementary schools might do, unless a direct connection could be established between the elementary school and the public library their work would not be half done. Even on its recreative side, reading might be made educational. The novel, no less than the treatise, would be of signal service in the education of the young, if it were only rightly selected and rightly used. Boys and girls in school should not only be taught to read, but to love reading, so that they themselves might continue their education when they left school. He sometimes feared that the great facility now given for acquiring education in school was not conducing as much as it should do to help forward a real love of learning. He remembered hearing Mr. Ben Brierley (who was a Failsworth lad) once say that when he was a youth he thought they learned better how to climb towards education because they had to make their own ladders. He (the speaker) hoped that although the ladders were now made for them in abundance, the young people would not be unwilling to climb. Schoolmasters and others should try above all things to give those who come under their charge a real enthusiasm and love for knowledge. The real student had never done learning. Over the grave of Green the historian, in the Cemetery at Florence, there was this epitaph—and this only—“He died learning.”

Councillor Hoy, Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee of the City Council, in supporting the resolution, said that meeting was also the public inauguration of the science and art classes in that neighbourhood. While in Newton Heath they had the latest addition to the libraries, they had at the same time the commencement of science and art teaching and of technical instruction directly in connection with the Corporation. This was not only the first effort in Manchester in that direction, but it was also one of the very first in the kingdom. Not more than half a dozen towns had as yet taken this matter into their own hands, and they in Manchester up to the present time had only supplemented the funds of other institutions. Now they had advanced a step further. They had provided all fittings and apparatus for those rooms, such as desks, drawing materials, laboratory accommodation, and other things. They intended to have a series of domestic economy lectures, including lectures on cookery, dress-making, and in what was called first aid to the injured. They had asked the officers of the Technical School to take in hand the management of these classes and the providing of an efficient staff of teachers. There was a considerable list of lectures in science and art and commercial subjects, as well as the specific classes for women which he had mentioned, and he hoped the inhabitants of Newton Heath would take full advantage of them. This was only part

of the scheme for general higher education, because those who attended the schools there might look forward to being participators in a very considerable number of scholarships that were being established by the Manchester Corporation in the various higher educational institutions of Manchester. He had pleasure in announcing that the technical instruction rooms would be open from 6-30 to nine o'clock on Saturday evening. There would be an exhibition of models, and altogether they would try and make it an agreeable place for persons to pass through.

The resolution thanking the donors for their gifts was then put, and carried unanimously.

Alderman W. H. Holland, in replying to the vote of thanks, said, on behalf of those who had done some little to make the library more complete, he acknowledged with gratitude the resolution which they had just now been good enough to pass with so much enthusiasm. That was to him a red letter day, and one to which he had looked forward for a very long time. They knew that the scheme for these public buildings was hatched in the old Local Board office. Of course they did not like to refer very much to those old Local Board days, because it was an antiquated kind of government which they had then. He hoped that they had already felt the advantage of the change which had come about in their public life. He ventured to hope that those buildings would exert a very admirable and very blessed influence upon the public life of the neighbourhood. A very great honour had been conferred on the people of Newton Heath in having the Mayor and Mayoress amongst them, who, he hoped, would go away with a higher opinion of the people in that district than they had before. It had been said to have been rather a bold step for the Local Board to undertake the erection of that pile of buildings, but as there had not been very much for them to do of their usual kind of work, they thought this was a very good way of occupying their time. They knew that if the foundations were once laid and the buildings erected and opened, the people would take care they were not put on wheels and transferred somewhere else. He thought they would give them credit for doing the best they could in providing for the requirements of the neighbourhood.

Councillor W. T. Rothwell said it was with very great pleasure that he moved the following resolution:—"That our most hearty appreciation and best thanks be given to his Worship the Mayor for his kindness in coming here this evening." He might say, from his own personal experience of the Mayor, that he was one of those kind of men that Newton Heath, now that it had become amalgamated with Manchester, had every reason to be proud of. He had many opportunities of noticing how the Mayor had conducted the meetings of the City Council with tact, sound common sense, and businesslike ability. To use a Lancashire term, their Mayor was "a gradely mon." When the movement for the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts was mooted in this district, he was one of those who took a lively interest in it, and did his best to get it carried. Plans were soon afterwards prepared, and he thought the inhabitants would give the Local Board credit for the manner in which the buildings had been designed, and also the smallness of the cost. They took what he called a very sensible business view. They fixed what they considered a reasonable limit to the cost—if he remembered rightly it was £10,000—and then advertised for the best plans to come within that limit. They had not been told the number of books that the library contained. The number was between 4,800 and 4,900, and the number of authors was between 1,500 and 1,600. This was not a very large number of books, but they would find them, upon examination, to be of superior quality.

Councillor Charles Rowley seconded the resolution, and remarked that the Mayor had also written a book, and no doubt they would be glad to see a copy of it in the library.

Councillor Henry Tetlow, in supporting the resolution, said there was not a more grateful heart in Newton Heath for the privilege they enjoyed in having a Free Library and Reading Room inaugurated for them by the Mayor of Manchester. He considered that event as one of the best omens of his (the speaker's) time.

The Mayor, in reply, said they had gratified him very much indeed by the very handsome expressions personal to himself, and to the humble services which he had been enabled to render to the city of his adoption during the term of his mayoralty. He was not going to detain them long, but there were one or two little omissions which he would like to put right. It ought to be definitely stated that there were 4,824 volumes in the library. Then he wanted just to say a word or two about the catalogue which had been arranged on the index principle in a most exemplary way, which method had been copied by a number of other libraries. It was the labour of their chief librarian, who deserved the highest credit for it, and the best thanks of the public for his admirable arrangement of the books under the various headings. Then it ought to be stated that there had been a tablet recording the various benefactions placed in the library, and the proceedings of that day. With reference to Mr. Rowley's remark about his having published a book, it was a sketch of a trip to America, but in the course of the second edition he had to stop the printing because he could not dispose of them except by giving them away. He would present two copies to the Newton Heath Free Library. In the binding he was very particular to have them done in red, so that he might be sure that they would be read. They had touched him very deeply by the kind expression of thanks that evening from his colleagues in the Council.

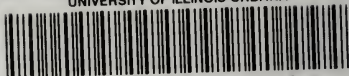
Councillor Trevor, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said that next to the Mayor came the Chairmen of Committees. They had enormous power, enthusiasm, urbanity, and kept the committees always in a good humour, and sometimes made them sit down in the best of humour. He was very thankful for the kind of books which had been supplied to the library, including works of fiction, which had a practical influence in many homes in that district. He felt obliged to the persons who had got up that meeting, and made it so pleasing a time for them in the opening of that great building.

The Rev. E. F. Letts seconded the resolution, which was also carried unanimously.

The Chairman briefly replied, and expressed the hope that if any little defects were found to exist with regard to the Library those finding them would write to him instead of sending anonymous letters to newspapers. He never neglected to take notice and attend to any letter on free library matters which was addressed to him as Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, and he promised them that if there was anything they had to say which was deserving attention they should have it.



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